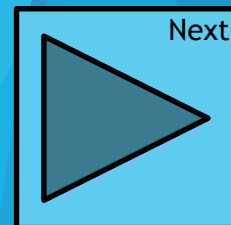# Searching the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Database

Rhode Island Department of State, Business Services

148 West River Street

Providence, RI 02904

401-222-3040

www.sos.ri.gov

corporations@sos.ri.gov

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UCC DATABASE SEARCH

SEARCH BY
INDIVIDUAL NAME

SEARCH BY
ORGANIZATION NAME

SEARCH BY
FILING NUMBER

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES

- Understand what the UCC database is and how to use it

- Navigate the UCC database

- Recognize the various search options

- Determine the search option that will return the results you are looking for

- Know the Search Types

Next
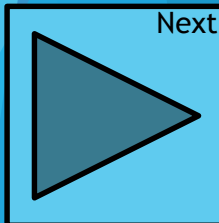
WHAT IS THE UCC DATABASE ?

The Rhode Island Department of State maintains a database of certain financing statements and other lien documents provided for in the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). Filings serve to perfect security interest in named collateral and establish priority in case of debtor default or bankruptcy. The database can be accessed at http://business.sos.ri.gov/CorpWeb/uccSearch/uccSearch.aspx and is free, searchable and available to everyone 24 hours a day.

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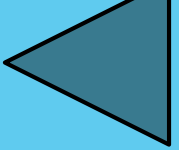
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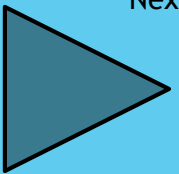
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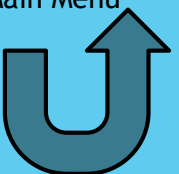
HOW TO USE THE UCC DATABASE

NEW
### Search ALL Lapsed Filings!

To begin searching:

1. Go to http://business.sos.ri.gov/CorpWeb/uccSearch/uccSearch.aspx
2. Click on the option button next to the search that you would like to conduct
3. Click the drop-down (when available) to identify the type of search you would like to run
4. Enter the search criteria
5. Click on "search"

Please click here for detailed search instructions.

Click here to search the UCC database

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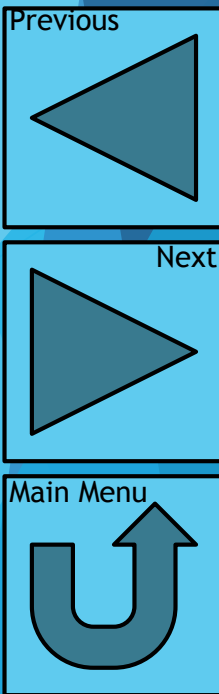
HOW TO NAVIGATE THE UCC DATABASE

Navigating the UCC database is easy! Simply...

- ✓ Click on the option button next to the search that you would like to conduct
- ✓ Click the drop-down (when available) to identify the type of search you would like to run
- ✓ Enter the search criteria
- ✓ Click "search"

Once you select an option button indicating your preferred lookup criteria, you may tab to move through fields or simply place your cursor in the field of your choice. You may also choose how many names you would like to see in your results by clicking on the "display number of items to view" drop down menu.

Please click here for detailed search instructions.

Click here to search the UCC database

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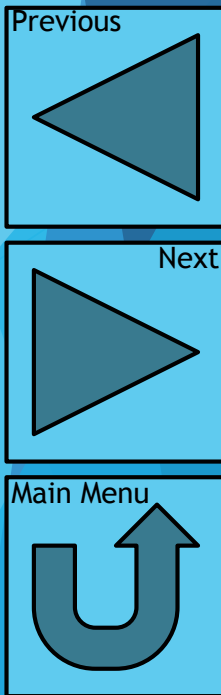
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SEARCH CRITERIA

Search by:
- Individual Name
- Organization Name
- File Number

Search Options:
- Active
- Lapsed

Search Types:
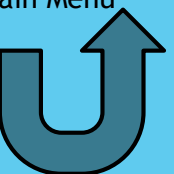- Article 9
- Begins With
- Exact Match

Previous
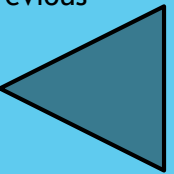
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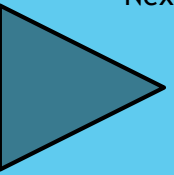
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SEARCH OPTIONS

…Note…
*Our office conducts all searches using the "Article 9" or standard search method. All UCC Certified Search requests will return results based on this search method.*
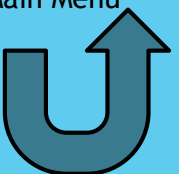
Active: Financing statements remain in the UCC Information Management System for one year after the statement's lapse (expiration) date.

Lapsed: Lapsed financing statements that exceed their lapse (expiration) date by more than a year can be accessed using the link "to search lapsed filings" at the top of the UCC Public Search page.

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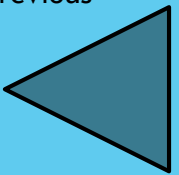
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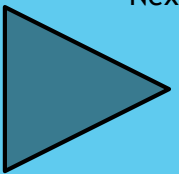
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SEARCH TYPES

"Article 9"
Standard Search

Criteria should reflect the exact debtor name you are searching.
EXAMPLE: CUSTOM DESIGN will return "Custom Design Inc" and "Custom Design Co" but not "Custom Eateries" or "Custom Fits."

"Begins with"
Non-Standard Search

Searching by individual is only accurate by using the LAST NAME field.
Searching by organization will return results that begin with the letters or words that you enter.
EXAMPLE: AB will return results that include "Able" and "Abbot".

"Exact Match"
Informational Exact Match Search

The exact match search does not ignore corporate endings (Corporation, Corp., Limited Liability Company or LLC) or noise words. Results are based upon the exact organization name that is entered.
EXAMPLE: CUSTOM DESIGN INC will return "CUSTOM DESIGN INC" not "Custom Design Co" or "Custom Design, LLC."

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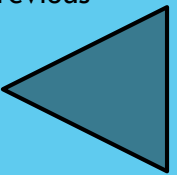
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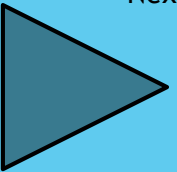
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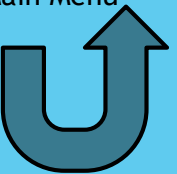
SEARCH CATEGORIES

Individual's Name

Organization Name

File Number
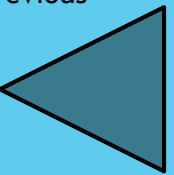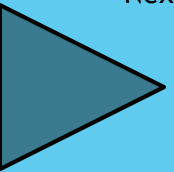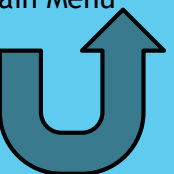
SEARCH BY INDIVIDUAL NAME

You must enter at least the first two letters of an individual's last name, however, you do not need to type the entire name. Refining your search criteria will yield a more specific result. If you would like to limit the search, you may also include "First Name", "Middle Name", "Suffix", "City and State". If you are unsure of the debtor's correct legal name, you may choose to run a "begins with" search to identify the debtor.
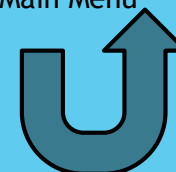

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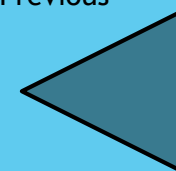
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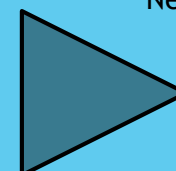
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SEARCH BY ORGANIZATION NAME

You must enter at least the first two letters of the organization or company's name you want to find. If you would like to limit the search, you may also include "City" and "State".

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SEARCH BY FILE NUMBER

The exact number must be provided. File Numbers are 6 or 12 digits long.

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SEARCH TIPS

1. All searches are case-insensitive. This means that you may type your search criteria in lower case letters, capital letters or both.
2. Search results are displayed in alphabetical (ascending) order by individual name or organization name.
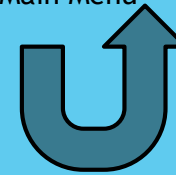3. If you are searching for a word that may also be abbreviated, such as St. for Saint, please be sure to perform a search with both spellings. The search function cannot determine that St. may also mean Saint. The same is true for Jr. and junior, Sr. and senior, etc. A company with the name Saint John's Signs may be found only in a search for St. John's Signs.
4. Punctuation will not change your search results. Smith, Jones and Water's will also return Smith Jones and Waters.
5. The search function ignores the word "The" when it is at the beginning of an organization name. Whether you choose to include or exclude the word "The" in your search criteria, the results will be the same. The search function also ignores noise words and corporate endings as defined by IACA at the end of an organization name (Company, LLC, Inc.). Please note that the search function only ignores noise words at the end of an organization name. Therefore, a search on "Lincoln Packin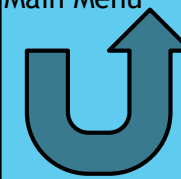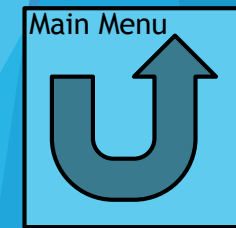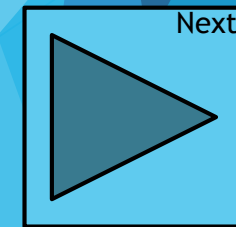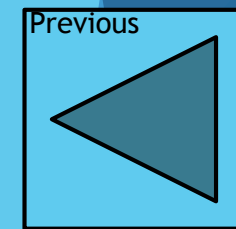g Company Inc" will not yield the same results as a search for "Lincoln Packing Company". This is because a search for the first debtor "Lincoln Packing Company Inc" will yield results for "Lincoln Packing Company" while a search for the second "Lincoln Packing Company" will yield results for "Lincoln Packing" due to the corporate ending being stripped at the end of the organization name.

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EXTRA SEARCH CRITERIA

If you generate too many results, you may want to restrict your search by including additional search criteria. Additional search criteria can be added directly below the main search area.

1. If you would like to search for filings that were filed after a specific date, you can select a date for the Filing Start Date. The search is inclusive of the date you select. If you select 01/02/2000, you will return results for filings dated 01/02/2000 and after.

2. You can also limit your search criteria so that the system only displays your search results in relation to a specific party. You can limit your search results to Debtors, Secured Parties and/or Assignees. If you use a last name search criteria of Smith and you also check the option button next to Debtors, your results will only display debtors with a last name of Smith. The system will not return assignees with the last name of Smith (unless in relation to a debtor result with an assignee with the same last name).

3. You can also elect to perform an "exact match" search. The exact match search does not ignore corporate endings (Corporation, Corp., Limited Liability Company or LLC) or noise words. Results are based upon the exact organization name that is entered.
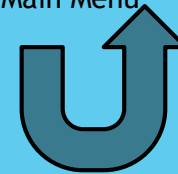
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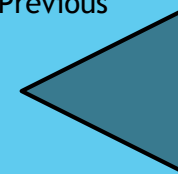
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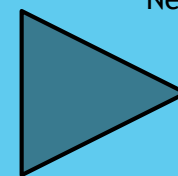
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THANK YOU

FOR VISITING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S WEBSITE AND FOR USING OUR TUTORIAL!

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